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Amendments to the Specification.

Please amend the paragraph bridging p.15-16 as follows:

Expression of Listeriolysin O and Target Proteins. To facilitate expression of mature cytoplasmic LLO in *E. coli*, the *hly* gene encoding LLO lacking its N-terminal signal sequence (22) was cloned into the plasmid vector pACYC184 to generate pDP3615 ~~as described in Materials and Methods~~. Transcription of the truncated *hly* gene in pDP3615 is under the control of the constitutive *tet* gene promoter. Proteins to be delivered to the cytosol of macrophages were expressed from co-resident plasmids in *E. coli*. We chose chicken ovalbumin (OVA) as one of the representative proteins to deliver to the cytosol of macrophages. OVA is not toxic to *E. coli* and can be readily expressed to high levels (32). A plasmid encoding truncated (32kD) OVA was transformed into *E. coli* along with pDP3615. In order to determine if a large protein with a measurable enzymatic activity could be delivered to the cytosol of macrophages, we expressed β -galactosidase (β -gal) along with LLO in *E. coli*. A plasmid containing the gene encoding β -gal, was transformed into *E. coli* along with plasmid pDP3615. Expression of both OVA and β -gal in these strains is under the control of IPTG-inducible phage T7 RNA polymerase. We next analyzed the hemolytic activity and protein expression profiles of these strains. Following IPTG induction, OVA and β -gal were expressed to approximately 20% of the total *E. coli* cellular protein as determined by SDS-PAGE. To verify expression of active LLO protein within *E. coli*, hemolytic activity contained in the soluble fraction of *E. coli* extracts was determined as described above. All of the strains expressing LLO contained approximately 500-600 hemolytic units of activity in the soluble extracts. No measurable hemolytic activity was found in the culture medium in which the *E. coli* were grown. These data indicate that functional LLO protein was contained within the *E. coli* cells and not secreted to the extracellular environment.